THE
Dan Smoot Report

Vol. 16, No. 3 (Broadcast 752) January 19, 1970 Dallas, Texas

DAN SMOOT

THE VIOLENT SIXTIES

As the violent decade of the sixties ended, there was much commentary to the effect that the decade was violent.

Why was it violent?

The President's Commission on Violence and the President's Commission on Riots both concluded that the turbulence of the sixties resulted largely from "white racism." That conclusion has been reiterated ad nauseam: most of our domestic troubles stem from the fact that whites abuse Negroes. Recently, the television networks provided a national audience to hear Ralph Abernathy (president of Southern Christian Leadership Conference) say that whites in America are determined to exterminate black people.

That is a lie. Negroes have as much freedom and opportunity in America as whites — in some ways, more. Negroes have made more progress and have enjoyed more dignity and prosperity in America than has ever been the lot of Negroes anywhere else on earth.

Many liberal commentators say that poverty amidst plenty was the root cause of most of the violence in the decade of the sixties. That is obviously not so. The poor were foremost among the victims of crime and violence, but they were not the perpetrators.

The destructive riots that scarred the face and soul of America during the sixties were incited and led by well-financed, pro-communist agitators. Most of the participants had, or could have had, good jobs — or, they were pampered adolescents from prosperous families.

The individual crimes that have converted city parks and streets into places of terror after dark are not committed by desperately poor people who can find no other means of sustaining themselves. The crimes are committed to satisfy vicious or extravagant tastes, habits, and vices — committed, for the most part, by people with enough cunning to know that the permissiveness of the

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT is published weekly by The Dan Smoot Report, Inc., Box 9538, Dallas, Texas 75214 (office at 6441 Gaston Ave.). Subscriptions: $18.00 for 2 years; $10.00, 1 year; $6.00, 6 months. Dan Smoot was born in Missouri, reared in Texas. With BA and MA degrees from SMU (1938 and 1940), he joined the Harvard faculty (1941) as a Teaching Fellow, doing graduate work in American civilization. From 1942 to 1951, he was an FBI agent; from 1951 to 1955, a commentator on national radio and television. In 1955, he started his present independent, free-enterprise business: publishing this REPORT and abbreviating it each week for radio and TV broadcasts available for commercial sponsorship by business firms.

Copyright by Dan Smoot, 1970. Second Class mail privilege authorized at Dallas, Texas.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

courts shelters hoodlums.

The sixties were violent because we are living in revolutionary times. Revolution is not necessarily bad. Whether it is or not depends on what kind it is.

The American Revolution in the late eighteenth century was motivated, inspired, and led by men of learning and character — godly men, for the most part, who reached outward and upward for the ideal of liberty under God in an orderly society. They were not anarchists. They were law-and-order men, who wanted a society in which the individual could have maximum liberty to do as he pleased, without infringing on the rights and freedom of others.

This ideal requires balance between two tendencies present in every civilized society. One tendency is toward total lawlessness, a condition in which no one has any real liberty because there is nothing to keep him from being victimized by others. The other tendency is toward total government, which assumes absolute wisdom and power to decide what is good for the people and then to force it upon them.

To secure the blessings of liberty in an organized society, government must have enough power to intervene in and control, to some degree, the lives of individuals. But if government goes too far in its intervening and controlling, tyranny, not liberty, results.

Just how far should governmental power go? Man has never found a definitive answer to that question.

The Americans of the eighteenth century did not find an answer to it; but they did establish the most nearly perfect governmental system ever conceived by the minds of men.

The basic idea underlying the Constitution which created the federal government was the doctrine of natural rights: man derives all of his rights from God, and not from government. The purpose of government is to secure for the people the blessings of liberty which are theirs by divine gift before government was ever created.

The Constitution was written as a binding contract of government, providing for wide dispersion of political power. Federal power is limited to what is clearly specified in the Constitution. This means that the federal government has no legal, constitutional authority to operate a compulsory social security system, dispense welfare and free lunches, pay for medical services, or give aid to states, cities, schools, farms, businesses, or foreigners.

If the people want the federal government to do these things — or anything else for which there is no clear constitutional grant of authority — the people should legally amend the Constitution to give the federal government the additional power they want it to have.

When they permit elected and appointed officials to reinterpret the Constitution as they please, to do what some consider to be good or necessary, they open the floodgates to tyranny. Federal power that can be stretched to perform one beneficial act, can be stretched to do a million evil deeds.

The Constitution expressly left with states (or the people thereof) the latent, undefined powers of government. State governments *can legally* experiment with social legislation to meet the changing needs of changing times. If *they* err — go too far or not far enough in the exercise of their broad powers — the example and competition of other states can induce correction.

That was the unique and magnificent constitutional system produced by Americans in the eighteenth century. It was the only system ever devised which enabled people to experiment with new and revolutionary ideas of government — peacefully, legally, without endangering the whole nation.

Under that system, the people could safely search for an answer to the unanswerable question of how far government should be permitted

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

to go in regulating and controlling the lives of individual citizens. The federal government could go no further than the Constitution specifically authorizes; but state governments could search for an answer by the trial-and-error method, their errors subject to correction by the force of competition among the states.

Compare this product of the eighteenth century American Revolution with the products of the eighteenth century French Revolution and the communist-socialist revolutions of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In their initial stages, those revolutions may have been animated by a belief on the part of some that they would improve the lot of humanity; but the driving force of those revolutions was not a yearning for liberty under God in an orderly society. The driving force was hate: plunder the haves to help the have-nots. The end result in all cases was poverty and tyranny for all.

The revolution now rending the fabric of our society is, in no way, an extension of the eighteenth century American Revolution. It is, rather, an acceleration of the communist-socialist revolution which has already enslaved more than a billion people.

Why did it happen in America? Because we abandoned the only bulwark against it: the American constitutional system.

Our constitutional system never could have been overturned suddenly, but it has been eroded away gradually. Step by step through the years — greedily listening to political promises of something for nothing, or something to be paid for out of the federal treasury — we have permitted economic and political power to gravitate to Washington.

But, in the end, government can give the people nothing that government has not first taken away from them. And what government gives back is always much less than what it takes.

It does not make any sense for government to confiscate our money, haul it to Washington, waste some of it, give much of it away to the enemies of our society at home and abroad, spend a great deal of it on programs that are harmful to our nation, and then return to us a small percentage of our own money (with guidelines) as aid.

The legal, constitutional, and sensible way to solve problems of welfare, urban decay, pollution, housing, unemployment, inflation, mass transportation, is not through illegal federal taxing and spending. Instead, the money should be left with the people who earned it. Then, the industrious and frugal could look after themselves, and have enough left over for payment of local and state taxes to finance such public programs as the people decide should be handled by their local and state governments.

But we have been following the opposite way. We have permitted the federal government to confiscate the money of the people and preempt the revenue and powers of the states. Consequently, we are sinking into the quagmire of a socialist-welfare-state dictatorship.

This socialist revolution has been going on for a full generation. It accelerated sharply and became violent in the sixties, because, by then, we had a generation of Americans ripe for communist subversion. They had been brainwashed with the socialist idea that the central government can and should take care of the people, because the people do not have the ability or the responsibility to look after themselves.

In its efforts to take care of the people, the federal government has made them dependent. Today, most Americans are, in one way or another, economically dependent on the federal government: for welfare, pensions, contracts, special subsidies, medical care, tax privileges, jobs, school financing, hospital financing, road building.

When a man is left free to struggle, he develops strength and wisdom by struggling. When he is forced into dependence on government, he tends to become a dependent personality, flabby

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

and irresolute, with no will, courage, or convictions of his own. A free man can have dreams and vision, and can courageously enter what Job called the warfare of life to capture those dreams and transform them into reality.

A dependent personality has no dream of conquering anything. Instead, he has greed: greed to get all he can for himself, not by constructive effort, but by demands upon the power which made him dependent.

When people are taught that government has the means and duty to provide all their material needs, and that they have neither the means nor the responsibility of providing for themselves, they will naturally demand that government give them what they want. When they do not get all they want, their demands will eventually become violent.

In short, the basic cause of the violent turbulence of the sixties was the so-called liberalism that has dominated every aspect of American life for a generation, developing in many people the materialistic attitude of socialism, which demands something for nothing, accepts no individual responsibility, heeds no authority, yields to no discipline, cherishes no ideals, has wants but no taste, and respects neither God, country, nor self.

Today, literally millions of people who never worked or paid direct taxes, and never will, are on the welfare rolls — which are growing ten times faster than the population is growing. Government uses our tax money not only to support these people, but also to help finance the cost of organizing them into militant mobs, to demonstrate and riot for more welfare. The situation is growing worse rapidly.

We are headed very fast toward the condition that prevailed in the latter days of ancient Rome, when the country was ruled by ruthless tyrants, who were, themselves, the creatures of idle, big-city mobs, forever rioting violently for more handouts, to be confiscated from the ever-dwindling number of taxpayers.

In America, much of the blame must be put on the plundered taxpayers themselves. Not realizing, or caring, that they are paying for the destruction of their own country, many of them support "popular" government spending and giveaways, because they fear retaliation or loss of personal influence if they do not, or because they are greedy to get their share.

If we continue on our present course, America will be plundered, ravaged, and destroyed — not by barbarians from beyond the borders, but by the greedy, the indolent, and the uncivilized right here.

The only way to avoid this calamity is for the taxpayers (who finance the growing socialist-welfare state) to demand a return to constitutional government—by keeping pressure on those officials already in office, and by electing to the federal Congress men who regard the Constitution as an inviolable contract of government; men who will work to dismantle as quickly as possible, the illegal, unconstitutional federal welfare-state programs — leaving the money and power where they legitimately belong: with the people and their state governments.

Subscribe Today to The Dan Smoot Report

6 mos. $6.00 **— 1 YR. $10.00 —** 2 yrs. $18.00

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT
BOX 9538, DALLAS, TEXAS 75214
Telephone: TAylor 1-2303

Send reprints to your friends and suggest they order reprints too.
REPRINTS OF THIS ISSUE (for bulk mailing to one address):

1 copy	$ .25	100 copies	$ 6.50
10 copies	1.00	200 copies	12.00
25 copies	2.00	500 copies	28.00
50 copies	3.50	1000 copies	50.00

Texans Add 4¼% for Sales Tax
(Add 50c for special-handling postage)

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED